

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 101415Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, KE
SUBJECT: KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: A. NAIROBI 4014; B. STATE 131061; C. STATE 131062

1. WHILE EMBASSY NORMALLY WOULD WELCOME VISIT TO KENYA BY DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA, WE FAIL TO SEE HOW NOVEMBER VISIT BY THIS ORCHESTRA WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO SPECIFIC GOK REQUEST FOR USG TO SUPPLY JACKSON FIVE TO PLAY AT INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY FUNCTIONS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 12

AND DAYS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AND AFTER THAT DATE. IN FACT, IF DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA WERE TO COME TO KENYA NOVEMBER 23-24 AS PROPOSED REF B, WE WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE BILLING IT "AS USG GESTURE HONORING KENYAN INDEPENDENCE" AS SUGGESTED REF C. TO DO SO COULD BE HIGHLY OFFENSIVE TO THOSE IN GOK RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AND COULD GIVERISE TO FEELING THAT US -- UNLIKE OTHER MORE COOPERATIVE COUNTRIES -- PREFERS TO "GO IT ALONE" IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT.

2. EMBASSY AND USIS, THEREFORE, RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WAYS OF RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO GOK REQUEST. OUR PREFERENCES WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: (1) JACKSON FIVE OR (2) SIMILAR ROCK GROUP WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO KENYA ON DATES REQUESTED.

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3. WHILE WE APPRECIATE FUNDING PROBLEM CREATED BY COMMITMENT TO DUKE ELLINGTON (ON WHICH WE WERE NOT CONSULTED), WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT TO SEEK FUNDING TO SUPPORT TYPE PARTICIPATION REQUESTED BY GOK FROM OTHER SOURCES OR, IF NECESSARY AND CONTRACTUALLY FEASIBLE, BY ELIMINATING KENYA PORTION OF ELLINGTON VISIT. WE ARE, THEREFORE, DEFERRING ACCEPTANCE ELLINGTON VISIT PROPOSED REF B.

4. FURTHER INDICATION OF EXTENT TO WHICH GOK COUNTING ON OUR PARTICIPATION WAS GIVEN YESTERDAY WHEN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GACHUKIA SOUGHT OUT CHARGE' AT SOCIAL FUNCTION TO STATE GOK PLANNING COMMITTEE'S CONCERN OVER OUR LACK OF RESPONSE TO DATE ON JACKSON FIVE REQUEST. HE SAID THEY ARE COUNTING HEAVILY ON IT AND THAT KENYAN YOUTH WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED. CHARGE' REPLIED REQUEST STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE WOULD ADVISE GACHUKIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LINDSTROM

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